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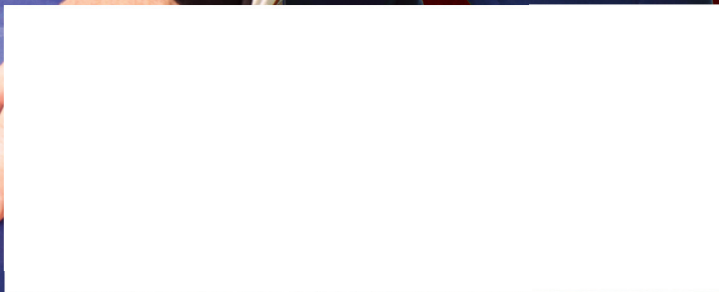
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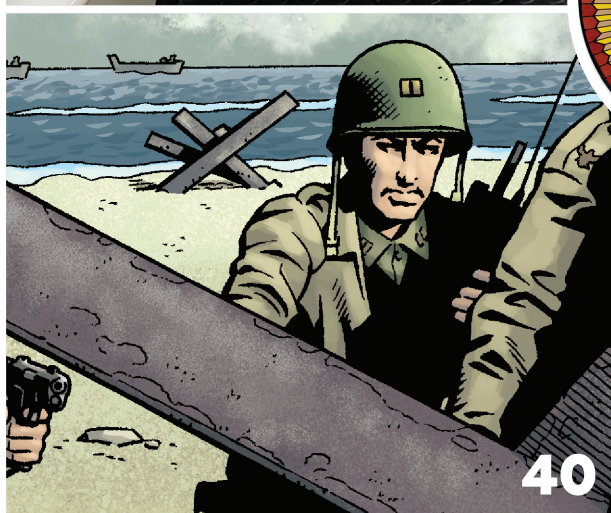
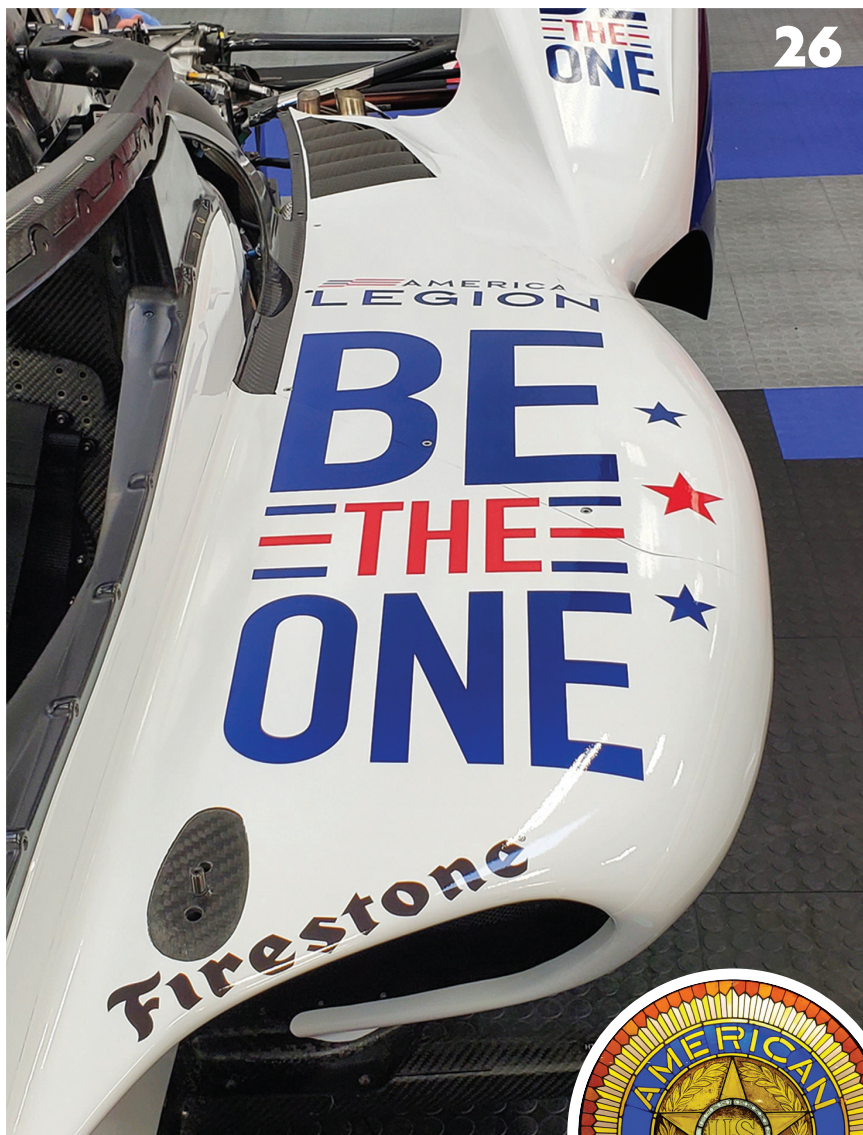


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6

View videos, read more stories and find resources at [legion.org](http://legion.org).

# AMERICAN LEGION

## JUNE 2022

VOL. 192, NO. 6

- 4 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE
- 6 FORWARD OPERATING BASE (THE FOB)
- 16 LIVING WELL
- 42 RAPID FIRE
- 54 COMRADES
- 56 PARTING SHOTS

### 20 The Misunderstood VA Home Loan

Myths about the mortgage program hurt veteran buyers.  
*By Ken Olsen*

### 26 Driving Forces

Tony Kanaan, Jimmie Johnson and Alex Palou lead The American Legion's efforts to reduce veteran suicide rate, accelerate growth of 100 Miles for Hope.  
*By Henry Howard*

### 28 This Century's West Berlin

To keep Beijing away, the United States needs to be clear about its commitment to Taiwan.  
*By Alan W. Dowd*

### 36 'Ringside, Hell! We'll Be in the Arena!'

American Legion founder's letters from Normandy describe "the great venture of war."



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## Rally around the flag

Times of national crisis, mourning and war often lead to a surge of patriotism among Americans, as we reflect on the good fortune and blessings that come with living in the greatest nation on earth. We

express that gratitude individually and collectively, by raising, waving and displaying the Stars and Stripes, a banner of freedom not just here but around the world.

As the nation's largest veterans organization, we believe it is crucial to rally around the flag. Richard Anderson, chairman of the Legion's National Americanism Commission, puts it well: "The American Legion believes in the U.S. flag and everything it stands for, and Legionnaires who fought for the nation's symbol take deep pride in it."

Respect for Old Glory shouldn't be reserved for Flag Day or other special observances. The Legion's preamble does not urge us to "foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism" only when it's convenient. We fly the colors not because we have been ordered or told to do so, not because it's popular or advantageous, but because the flag represents freedom and sacrifice. When we raise the flag, salute it, lower it and fold it with reverence, we honor friends, neighbors, loved ones and those we've never met who have risked and even given their lives in defense of our nation. Not without reason are their caskets draped by the red, white and blue.

There are many ways to demonstrate support for the flag, even if our Mount Suribachi is just a front porch with a 3 x 5 nylon ensign on a staff. Go to [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org), where people are sharing their flag stories and photos under the category "Rally Around the Flag."

The United States is not perfect, and patriotism should not be confused with blind conformity. Yet the flag has the power to bring us together like precious little else. Recall how the late "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert responded to criticism in the media for wearing a red, white and blue ribbon on TV following the 9/11 attacks. "Yes, I'm a journalist, but first I am an American citizen," he told *The American Legion Magazine*.

In a divided era, our star-spangled banner still waves, inviting us to remember the high ideals that unite us.

*Paul E. Dillard*

# THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

Veterans Strengthening America

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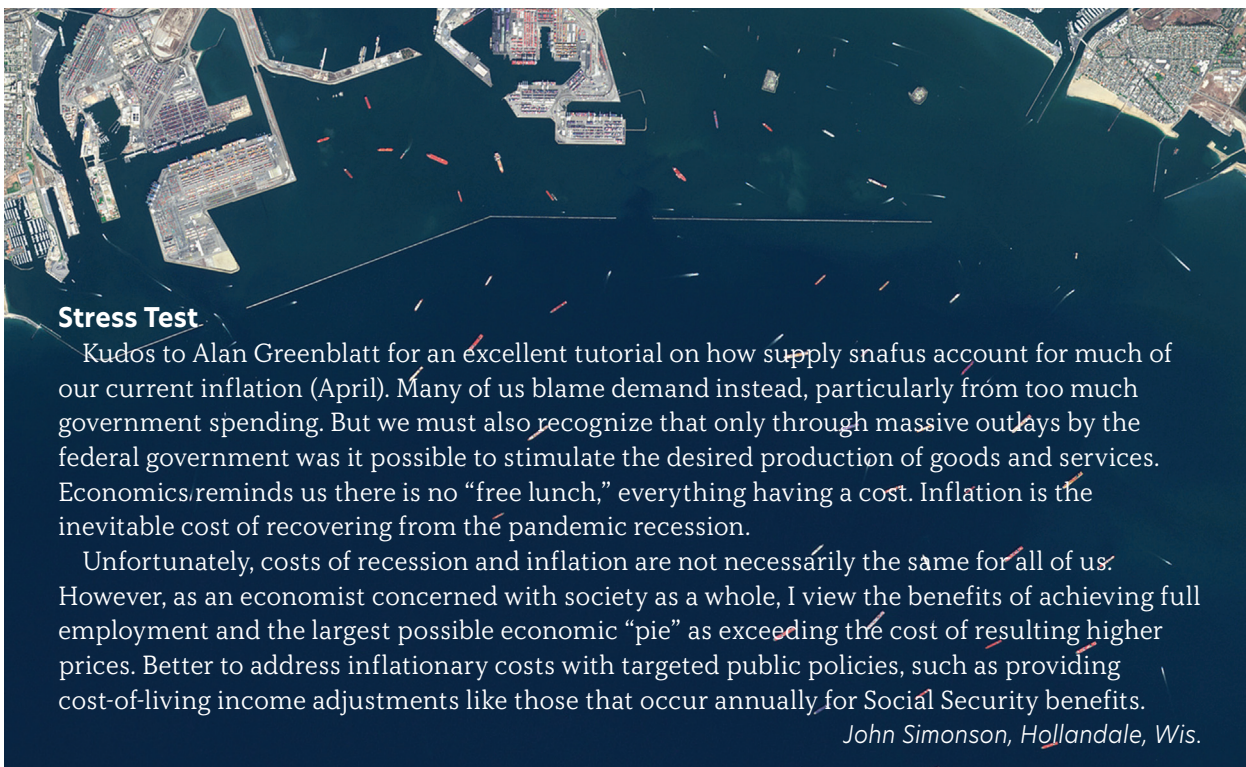
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## Stress Test

Kudos to Alan Greenblatt for an excellent tutorial on how supply snafus account for much of our current inflation (April). Many of us blame demand instead, particularly from too much government spending. But we must also recognize that only through massive outlays by the federal government was it possible to stimulate the desired production of goods and services. Economics reminds us there is no “free lunch,” everything having a cost. Inflation is the inevitable cost of recovering from the pandemic recession.

Unfortunately, costs of recession and inflation are not necessarily the same for all of us. However, as an economist concerned with society as a whole, I view the benefits of achieving full employment and the largest possible economic “pie” as exceeding the cost of resulting higher prices. Better to address inflationary costs with targeted public policies, such as providing cost-of-living income adjustments like those that occur annually for Social Security benefits.

*John Simonson, Hollandale, Wis.*

## Under the Cloud

I enjoyed reading J.B. Rivard’s article about Operation Dominic (April). I was the navigator on Hewstone 2, one of two heavily instrumented C-130s in the airborne diagnostic array. While the bomber flew a 16-minute racetrack, we flew 8-minute patterns, fine-tuning the timing and wind calculations. The high-speed cameras mounted in the left paratroop door had a very narrow field of view, so aiming was critical. The search radar in the C-130 wasn’t intended for such precision, but with the help of some talented radar technicians, some borrowed equipment and some crude-but-effective homebrew aids (think hand-scratched templates taped to the face of the radar scope), we got it done. On the largest shot of the series, I was supposed to be 27 miles from air zero. The telemetry data showed our distance error to be just 5 feet, and the fireball was perfectly centered in the film frame. It was a challenging mission, but heady stuff for a young navigator with wings little more than a year old.

*Norman*

*G. Clanton,*

*Bethel, Maine*

### THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

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## Window to Legion history



A stained-glass window in the shape of the American Legion emblem is back on display at **Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne Post 64** in Indianapolis. Put in storage when the post relocated in 2006, the 73-year-old window recently received a four-month, \$20,000 restoration, led by Sons of The American Legion Squadron 64 Commander Allen Brown. The illuminated pane is thought to be one of a kind, and a tribute to the emblem “that all Legionnaires can be proud of,” says Kenny Cooper, Post 64 adjutant and alternate National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Indiana.

The window was unveiled during a March 27 Operation Comfort Warriors fundraising event at the post.





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## Support, recognize ROTC cadets

I stopped on page 4 of the April issue right away, as National Commander Paul E. Dillard's message got my full attention. Our granddaughter, who was adopted from China, was accepted to the ROTC program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) this year. Graduating near the top of her class in high school (engineering), she had hoped for Annapolis, but is quite happy with RPI. She's posted pictures of herself dressed in her naval uniform, alone and in formation. She has a huge smile on her face. We are all so proud of her.

*Michael McCabe, Chittenango, N.Y.*

## The Candy Bomber

Regarding Col. Gail Halvorsen (Rapid Fire, April), I was assigned to the 6912th Security Squadron (USAFSS) in Berlin in 1977 during the 25th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. There was a C-54 on a pedestal at the end of a runway at Tempelhof Central Airport. The aircraft was taken down off the pedestal and so perfectly preserved by the Germans that it took only a small number of old Air Force mechanics a couple of days to fire the engines and get the plane operational. During the celebration, Col. Halvorsen taxied the plane to the main terminal and under the overhang. He was indeed adored by many Germans who were kids when he made his candy drops while landing at Tempelhof. I'll never forget seeing him.

*Zack T. Fleming, Charles Town, W.Va.*

## Legionville

I was thrilled by the article on the Minnesota school patrol camp (Lore of the Legion, April). In 1954, Erwin March Post 64 in Slayton, Minn., sent me there. It was in the old fairgrounds at the time. Years later, my Scoutmaster, a Minnesota highway patrolman, spent weeks helping staff the new camp each summer. He was a lifelong friend and member of Post 64. After a career in the Army, I settled in Davenport. I am the honor guard coordinator for the local Post 26. Last year we provided military honors for 114 veteran funerals in the Quad Cities area. I am thankful that I am now able to "give back" to the Legion for my camping experience.

*Richard A. Lowe, Davenport, Iowa*

# THE PLAYLIST

*American Legion videos you don't want to miss.*

## Podcast team gets tough at ruck

The Tango Alpha Lima podcast team follows American Legion National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey and the Legion as they march with ruck sacks 26.2 miles between Concord and Lexington, Mass., during the Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston to honor the fallen.

## The American Legion experience at Long Beach Grand Prix

California Legionnaires share how they generate awareness and membership through the Legion's INDYCAR relationship.



Photo by Chet Strange

## 100 Miles for Hope: good family fun

American Legion member Mindy King shares the joy she and her boys find in supporting veterans and families through exercise and participation.

Visit [legion.org/magazine/videos](https://legion.org/magazine/videos) or subscribe to The American Legion's YouTube channel to see, show and share other American Legion videos.

## 60,000+

High school students who took the American Legion Department of Ohio's Americanism & Government Test this academic year, administered through local posts. Top performers in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades qualified for a trip to Washington, D.C., in early March to see military memorials, museums, the White House, the State Department and the Kennedy Center.

Photo by Ben Mikesell





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## Whereas ...

**Practices and customs** have been modified in the past few years regarding certain display procedures ...

**Previous changes and modifications** to the Flag Code did not clearly state the intent of some display procedures ...

**The Flag Code** needs to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices ...

### Be it resolved,

That The American Legion seek the appropriate legislation or presidential proclamation to alter, amend or modify the following subsections of the United States Flag Code, Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1:

- SS8. Respect for flag subsection (c) be amended to read: "The flag may be carried flat or horizontally when a patriotic effect is desired and when it is of such size that it cannot be carried aloft and free."
- SS8. Respect for flag subsection (i) be amended to read: "The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown."
- SS8. Respect for flag subsection (j) be amended to read: "No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, postal workers, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart."

**Passed,** American Legion National Executive Committee Fall Meeting, Oct. 12-13, 2016



Photo by Ken Olsen



Pixabay

*"You need to reach them in the media they're comfortable with."*

**American Legion National Vice Commander Michael Mitrione**, sharing an Oklahoma Legionnaire's advice on how best to engage current, former and prospective members. A simple request during a revitalization effort in Georgia - "Hey, can you text me that information?" - prompted the department to send a text message to veterans with expired memberships. "The response we got back in the three days we were there (was) over 400 renewals," Mitrione says.

## 'No better starting point than Old Glory'

Members of **American Legion Post 166 in Goose Creek, S.C.**, provided a lesson in flag etiquette for students at Devon Forest Elementary School in April.

Post 166 honor guard captain Michael Thomas, honor guard member Lewis Harper and past post commander Don Pace met with third- and fourth-graders who serve on the school's Flag Crew. Six students are elected each year after volunteering and writing a short essay on why the U.S. flag matters.

Post 166's honor guard taught the group how to raise, lower and fold the U.S. flag, as well as the South Carolina state flag. Students received their own flags and copies of the Legion's "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" booklet.

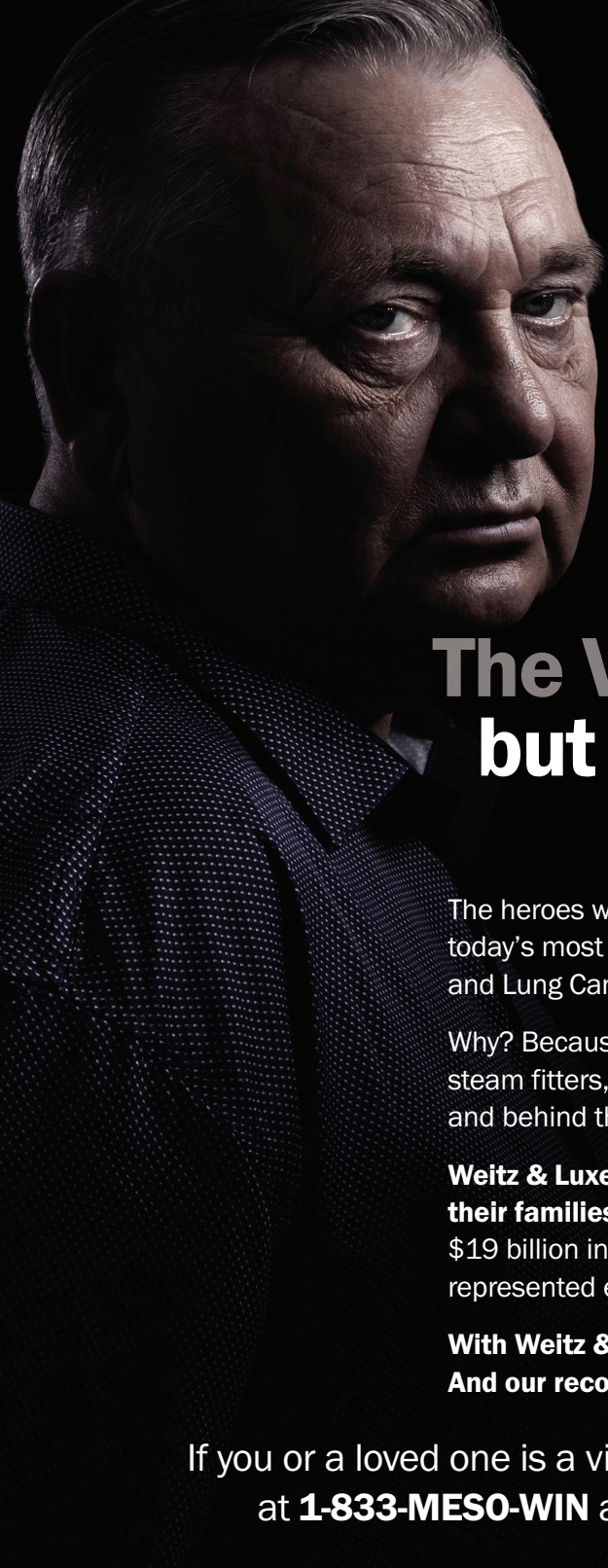
"Americanism is inherent in all the Legion does, and I can think of no better starting point than with Old Glory," Thomas said. "To the children of the Flag Crew, it's tangible and real. They not only see it but touch it. Whether (the flag is) properly folded or billowing in the wind, they see the results of their own work .... It's a win-win for them and us."

Share your U.S. flag stories and photos at [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org), under the category "Rally Around the Flag."



Photo courtesy Beth Bullock





# The Vietnam War was hell, but nothing like fighting Mesothelioma

The heroes who protected and built America a half century ago are today's most likely victims of deadly lung diseases such as Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer.

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*"LSU was home to one of The American Legion's first campus posts. That post - No. 58 - made Memorial Tower its primary goal. Nearly a century later, Memorial Tower stands as a defining feature of this historic campus. Even more importantly, it is a defining tribute to Louisianans who went to fight in World War I and did not come home ....*

*Let us remember clearly that it was the American Legion posts of Louisiana that raised the funds to build this great tower. And let us never forget the 1,705 reasons they did so."*

**American Legion National Vice Commander Cory Bates**, speaking to a crowd of 1,000 during a ceremony April 7 to rededicate Louisiana State University's Memorial Tower and officially open the William A. Brookshire LSU Military Museum. The event included remarks from Gov. John Bel Edwards and LSU President William F. Tate IV, re-enactments from figures in LSU's military history, videos, music and more. The American Legion of Louisiana raised most of the funds for the tower's original construction, dedicated by American Legion National Commander John McQuigg on April 30, 1926.

## Chase these 100 Miles fundraising incentives



Throughout the American Legion 100 Miles for Hope challenge, each month's top fundraiser will receive a special incentive. Chris Yates of Alvin Myo Dunn Post 365 in Vista, Calif., was the top fundraiser for March, and received an autographed shirt from legendary racecar driver Jimmie Johnson.

All funds raised through 100 Miles for Hope registration fees and donations go to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF). In turn, those dollars fund grants for military families facing financial difficulties, as well as programs that provide services to help disabled veterans receive free assistance in getting their earned VA benefits. The challenge runs until Sept. 5, so there is plenty of time to sign up and compete.

Other monthly incentives include merchandise autographed by Tony Kanaan, and a helmet signed by Johnson, Kanaan and Alex Palou. At the conclusion of the challenge, the overall fundraising champion will receive four tickets to an INDYCAR race of their choice during the 2023 season.

Yates offers these tips for fundraising:

- **People don't know unless you ask.** "We have to let them know what we're doing so they have the opportunity to donate."
- **Make it fun.** Yates won a friendly wager with a friend during football season. Once 100 Miles for Hope began, he contacted his friend for the agreed-upon \$100, as a donation.
- **Reach out beyond the Legion.** Yates hesitated to bring up the challenge in the workplace, but a business associate told him, "You need to let us know. We'll decide whether we have the resources to contribute or not." He received a \$250 donation.
- **Spread the word on social media, Legiontown and elsewhere.** "Share the story of the power of a foundation that helps disabled veterans and their families," Yates says. "As a society, how can you not be behind that?"

For more about the challenge, incentives, fundraising and more, visit [legion.org/100miles](https://legion.org/100miles).

**101** Service officers whose accreditation was certified by The American Legion in March

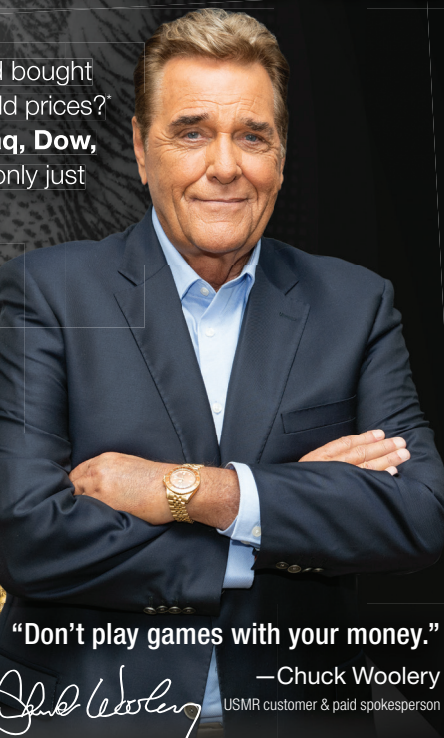




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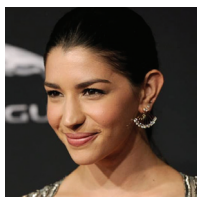
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A new Tango Alpha Lima podcast is published every Tuesday morning. More than 120 episodes are available on major podcast-hosting sites, as well as at [legion.org/tangoalphalima](http://legion.org/tangoalphalima), and video versions on the American Legion YouTube channel.



Photo by Ben Mikesell

### Legacy Run registration open

Join the 17th American Legion Legacy Run, which will start at USS *Alabama* Memorial Park in Mobile, Ala., Aug. 21 and go through five states before arriving at American Legion Post 434 in Oak Creek, Wis., Aug. 25.

Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel, a Legion Rider from Post 434, will be part of the Legacy Run's closing ceremonies. Riders may also participate in a bike night outside the nearby Harley-Davidson Museum campus.

Last year's Legacy Run raised more than \$1.1 million for the Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college scholarships to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty and those with a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater.

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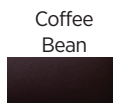
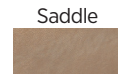
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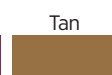
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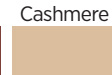
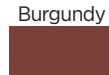
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# The not-so-sweet truth about sugar

It's no secret that sugar is detrimental to our health. It increases blood pressure, spikes inflammation and promotes cavities. It negatively affects our health in other ways, too:

- Too much sugar can cause insulin resistance, believed to be a leading cause of obesity, cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes and other conditions.
- Cancer is characterized by uncontrolled growth and multiplication of cells. Insulin is one of the key hormones in regulating this sort of growth. For this reason, many scientists believe that having constantly elevated insulin levels (a consequence of sugar consumption) can contribute to cancer.
- Sugar contributes to obesity in both adults and children. Over 50% of Americans are overweight.
- According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, a sugar-laden diet may raise your risk of dying of heart disease even if you aren't overweight. The effects of sugar go beyond weight management.

**Added sugars vs. natural sugars** There is a significant difference between natural sugars and added sugars. Natural sugar (fructose) is often found in fruits like berries. Not only is fructose not harmful, these foods generally include added benefits like antioxidants and fiber.

Added sugars are found in processed foods like bread and cereals. Added sugars or sweeteners can include natural sugars such as white sugar, brown sugar and honey, as well as other caloric sweeteners that are chemically manufactured, such as high-fructose corn syrup. Consumption not only increases your daily sugar count, but the processing of these foods often reduces or eliminates key nutrients.

**How much sugar is too much?** It is inevitable that we will consume some sugar daily. Our goal should be to limit added sugars and our overall amount consumed. For adults, USDA dietary guidelines recommend limiting added sugar to 5% to 15% of total calories consumed. For example, a 1,500-calorie diet should be limited to 19 to 56 grams of added sugar, a 2,000-calorie diet to 25 to 75 grams of added sugar and a 2,500-calorie diet to 31 to 94 grams of added sugar.

*Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is commander of the California American Legion's 24th District.*



Media Bakery

How much sugar is found in common coffees, breakfast items, and other popular beverages and foods? Here's a sampling:

**Starbucks Venti Vanilla Latte**, 79g sugar

**Starbucks Venti Iced Mocha**, 43g sugar

**Starbucks Venti Iced Vanilla Latte**, 41g sugar

**32 oz. Gatorade**, 21g sugar per serving, 2.5 servings per bottle

**20 oz. Coke**, 65g sugar

**Strawberry Yoplait yogurt**, 18g of sugar

**Fage Greek Yogurt with Honey**, 29g sugar

**Fruity Pebbles**, 9g sugar

**Honey Nut Cheerios**, 9g sugar

**Spaghetti sauce**, 10g sugar



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# Protect your back while traveling

BY BETH W. ORENSTEIN

Traveling soon, or thinking about it? Here are five tips from Rahul Shah, a spine and neck surgeon with Premier Orthopaedic Associates in Vineland, N.J., to help you arrive at your destination free of back pain despite cramped seats, long lines and little leg room.

**Stretching** Staying stationary for too long stresses the spine and can worsen existing pain and aches, Shah says. "If you move every 20 minutes to an hour, you will keep your body in proper alignment and prevent fatiguing the muscles in the back and neck from prolonged sitting."

**Posture** The goal with posture is to make sure there is minimal effort coming from the muscles to hold any stance or position. "Try to ensure your head is kept level over your pelvis and your neck is not craning forward," Shah says. Keep your gaze about 15 to 30 degrees off the horizon (slightly looking down) to prevent overexertion of your neck muscles. Try to not bend your knees and hips more than 90 degrees, so the large muscle groups in the lower back and pelvic areas are not at a disadvantage in their resting state. And try to keep your feet planted on the ground.



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**Lifting** When lifting a suitcase, try to lift with your legs. Evenly distribute your weight, and avoid twisting your lower back. "For shoulder bags, it is advisable to switch sides frequently to avoid overfatiguing the muscles," Shah says.

**Back/neck support** For those with lower back pain, placing a pillow behind your back can help prevent slouching during the flight. Likewise, a neck pillow can help prevent strains and provide support to the neck muscles.

**Activity** When it comes to neck and back pain, the less activity you do, the more likely the muscles are to ache, Shah says. Increasing your activity to achieve a heart rate that is 60% to 80% of the target heart rate can work to ensure all your muscles are primed, blood is flowing where needed, and all your body's muscles are able to work more harmoniously and synchronously. Getting blood flowing "allows for more effortless movement ... and makes you less prone to aching," he adds.

*Beth W. Orenstein of Northampton, Pa., is a frequent contributor to Living Well.*



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## Socks for sleep

Try wearing socks to bed to fall asleep faster and sleep more soundly.

The main reason is not comfort, but physiology. "Your body naturally works to lower your core temperature at night to help you sleep," according to a Cleveland Clinic report. "This happens as part of your circadian rhythm, a 24-hour internal clock that manages your sleep-wake cycle." A cooler bedroom temperature, then, promotes better sleep. Oddly, "if your feet are too cold, your core

temperature may actually click up a notch or two." This is a function of your body sending more blood flow - which generates more internal heat - to core areas.

"By making your feet warmer, you're opening up blood vessels to help cool down the rest of the body," says Michelle Drerup, director of behavioral sleep medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. "It seems counterintuitive, but that's what happens."



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In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

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# The misunderstood VA home loan

*Myths about the mortgage program hurt veteran buyers.*

BY KEN OLSEN

Veterans are missing out on home purchases because of misconceptions about VA-backed loans and tougher appraisal and inspection requirements.

As many as 80% of former servicemembers trying to purchase homes using VA financing are turned away by sellers and their real estate agents, says P.J. Johnsen, a northern California Realtor and chairwoman of the National Association of Realtors Federal Financing and Housing Committee. “I hear it every day,” Johnsen says. “I see it on the MLS (Multiple Listing Service) every day. Our veterans are being discriminated against.”

The picture is equally challenging on the East Coast, where buyers can be at a disadvantage when submitting offers backed by a VA loan – particularly in markets with low inventory and lots of potential buyers. Still, “most military families are very proud to have

earned the right to use the VA loan through their military service and want to exercise that benefit,” says Sandi LaCasse, a Massachusetts-based Realtor who specializes in helping military families and veterans near Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

The problem is so pervasive that Army veteran and mortgage loan originator Francisco Valencia automatically contacts a seller’s real-estate agent after one of his clients with VA financing makes an offer on a house. “They hear all these stories about sales going sideways because of an inspection or appraisal,” says Valencia, who works for Cross Country Mortgage in Rocklin, Calif. “It’s about getting past that stigma and educating people about what a VA loan is and what the process is. It’s a really, really good product. It’s just a misunderstood loan.”

That’s fueled by decades of myths and



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**89%** Sellers who say they are likely to accept an offer from a buyer using conventional home loan financing, according to a 2021 National Association of Realtors (NAR) survey

**30%** Sellers who say they are likely to accept an offer from a buyer using VA or FHA financing

**85%** Approximate number of VA home appraisals that met or exceeded the sales prices in fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021

misinformation, including stories of loan applicants being required to do things such as write VA and promise not to have more children, Johnsen says. “Everything they’ve heard from the late ’70s and ’80s is wrong. The VA loan is as good as a conventional loan.”

“Misconceptions about VA home loan buyers must be aggressively countered through education, training and oversight,” Joseph C. Sharpe, director of The American Legion’s National Veterans Employment & Education Division, told the House Veterans’ Affairs Economic Opportunity subcommittee during a December hearing. “Congress must continue to investigate the VA home loan process to ensure servicemembers and veterans can buy homes through a discrimination-free process.”

**Millions housed** The VA home loan program was a cornerstone of the original GI Bill, drafted by American Legion Past National Commander Harry Colmery and passed in 1944, Sharpe says. The Legion continues to advocate for the program, including through Resolution No. 329 – the Support Home Loan Guaranty Program – which calls for “any administrative and/or legislative efforts that will improve and strengthen the Loan Guaranty Service’s ability to serve America’s veterans.”

VA has guaranteed more than 26 million home loans since the inception of the program, Sharpe says. And the default rate for VA loans is lower than even FHA loans. “These people are in it for the long haul,” Johnsen says.

VA loans don’t require a down payment, which can be particularly helpful to veterans just out of the military. “We’re starting from scratch,” Valencia says, noting it’s challenging for veterans to come up with the 20% down payment for a new home.

Yet sellers and real estate agents are more likely to choose a cash offer over a VA loan. “They don’t fully consider the VA offer because they are fearful of the required termite inspection and the appraisal results,” Valencia says. “It really does a disservice to veterans who signed up to give everything, up to and including their lives, for their country.”

The no-down-payment option and other aspects of the VA loan program are key to more equitable homeownership. “FHA and VA mortgages serve borrowers with lower incomes, less wealth and lower credit scores, because these mortgages have flexibility around credit scores, debt-to-income requirements and down payments,” according to a June 2021 Urban Institute report. “And because of our nation’s history of racial discrimination, many borrowers with these characteristics are people of color.”

In 2019, 13.1% of VA borrowers were Black compared with only 4.9% of conventional borrowers, the Urban Institute said. And 11.9% of VA borrowers were Hispanic compared with 11.1% of conventional borrowers.

“In a hot housing market, borrowers using FHA or VA mortgages are at a disadvantage to those using conventional mortgages,” the Urban Institute added. “And the borrowers who disproportionately use these mortgages are the families of color who have historically been excluded from home ownership and could most benefit from today’s interest rates.”

VA also cites the competitive housing market as a major part of the problem. “The current sustained demand for housing, coupled with a historic low in housing inventory, has created a sellers’ market with extremely competitive offers,” a VA spokesman says. “An offer without contingencies and the ability to charge more fees may be the best option for real estate professionals and sellers, but does not adequately represent the whole story of a veteran borrower and the VA loan.”



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**Other hurdles** A rigorous home inspection and appraisal standards can frighten away sellers, particularly in a hot housing market with multiple offers and buyers who are willing to waive inspections and other contingencies and pay well over the listing price for a property, LaCasse and other real estate agents say. The shortage of VA-approved appraisers can also delay the home purchasing process and dissuade sellers and their agents from accepting offers from buyers with VA loans, Sharpe adds.

There are also problems when VA appraisers from outside the area undervalue homes because they aren't familiar with the local market, Johnsen says. "We, as agents, need to be out there when the house is appraised to make sure they have the most up-to-date comps."

Army veteran Stephen Alder encountered an entirely different issue when he and his family tried to purchase their first home in Sandy, Ore., in 2016. The VA appraiser discovered the house had less livable space than was recorded in county records and the MLS database and asked that the sale price be lowered to reflect the actual house size. That failed.

"We had to cancel our VA loan and get a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan," says Alder, a member of American Legion Post 74 in nearby Estacada. "It's frustrating when you are trying to get your family into a home and (a) functionary of the federal government is disagreeing with a functionary of the county government. It made us feel really powerless."

Still, Alder would use his VA loan benefit in the future if he had the opportunity. "It was quick and relatively easy to do," he says. "There are more protections for buyers with VA loans."

The American Legion is advocating for more training and support for VA-approved appraisers as well as granting review appraisers the flexibility to approve valuations up to 5% higher than the appraiser's estimate, given rapid increases in housing prices. In addition, the Legion is encouraging VA and Congress to reform the VA appraisal appeals process to allow for consideration of more up-to-date comparable sales after an initial appraisal is completed.

VA could also revamp home-inspection

The National Association of Realtors and VA recently released a two-part video series to dispel misconceptions about the VA home loan program and help more veterans and servicemembers access the program.

**[nar.realtor/veterans-affairs](http://nar.realtor/veterans-affairs)**

requirements to allow more veterans to buy fixer-uppers, real estate agents say. "I wish VA would see that a lot of veterans and servicemembers don't have the ability to buy a new house, especially if they are coming from a market where houses are more affordable," LaCasse says.

Real estate agents can also help smooth the way for VA buyers, LaCasse says. She makes sure a seller's agent knows when a buyer is willing to take care of repairs that are identified during a VA home inspection. LaCasse was recently the listing agent for a house where the prospective buyer, a Navy veteran, offered to paint chipped window sills and pay for a contractor to install a handrail the VA inspector deemed necessary. That helped close the deal.

She and Johnsen will also often pay for pest inspections as a way of helping veterans and keeping the home purchase process moving. In addition, LaCasse gives veterans and servicemembers a percentage of her commission at closing, and often offers to allow the other real estate agent to share in the credit for that gesture without contributing any of their commission.

The NAR, meanwhile, is developing a fact sheet for home buyers to submit with their purchase offers to educate agents, brokers and lenders about the benefits of VA loans, Johnsen says. In addition, the organization has worked with VA to develop a video to dispel myths and misconceptions about the VA loan program.

It's long overdue, says Johnsen, who has encountered suspicion and disdain for VA loans since she started selling real estate 17 years ago. "This is urgent," she says. "We need to get veterans into homes." 🌿

*Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.*



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# DRIVING FORCES

**T**ony Kanaan, Jimmie Johnson and Alex Palou are doing more for The American Legion this racing season than just wearing the gear and steering the sponsored cars.

The NTT INDYCAR Series drivers are playing pivotal roles in educating the public about the Legion's "Be the One" initiative to reduce the veteran suicide rate. The athletes are also participating in the third annual 100 Miles for Hope fitness/wellness challenge. These topics and more were addressed in exclusive interviews with The American Legion earlier this year.

The following excerpts are edited for brevity and clarity.

*Entering your second year representing The American Legion, how has it inspired you to be driving for and cheered on by veterans who dedicated their lives to serving our country?*

**Kanaan:** As a veteran driver, you think you have a pretty solid fan base. I remember at last year's Indy 500 how many veterans and people associated with the Legion were there. That's when I knew my fan base had grown. It touched my heart. I've heard all my life how my story has been an inspiration. But I think their (veterans') stories are much more inspiring than mine.

**Johnson, whose grandfathers served in the Army and Navy:** Having the relationship with The American Legion and having their support, and with my personal ties to the military, helps make this "Career 2.0" dream come true. It's also great to support veterans, servicemembers and their family members.

**Palou:** It means a lot to be cheered on by

(American Legion) members. I got to meet a lot of veterans before the race last year. It was awesome to see the veterans cheering for me. It helps me to go faster knowing there is somebody caring for me. It's motivating. I look forward to doing even better this year for The American Legion.

*What does it mean to you to be supporting The American Legion's commitment to reducing the rate of veteran suicide?*

**Kanaan:** It's a big responsibility. You are talking about lives. You are talking about people with families. I lost my father when I was 13 – not from suicide, but it created an empty space in my life. We don't want anybody to lose their life.

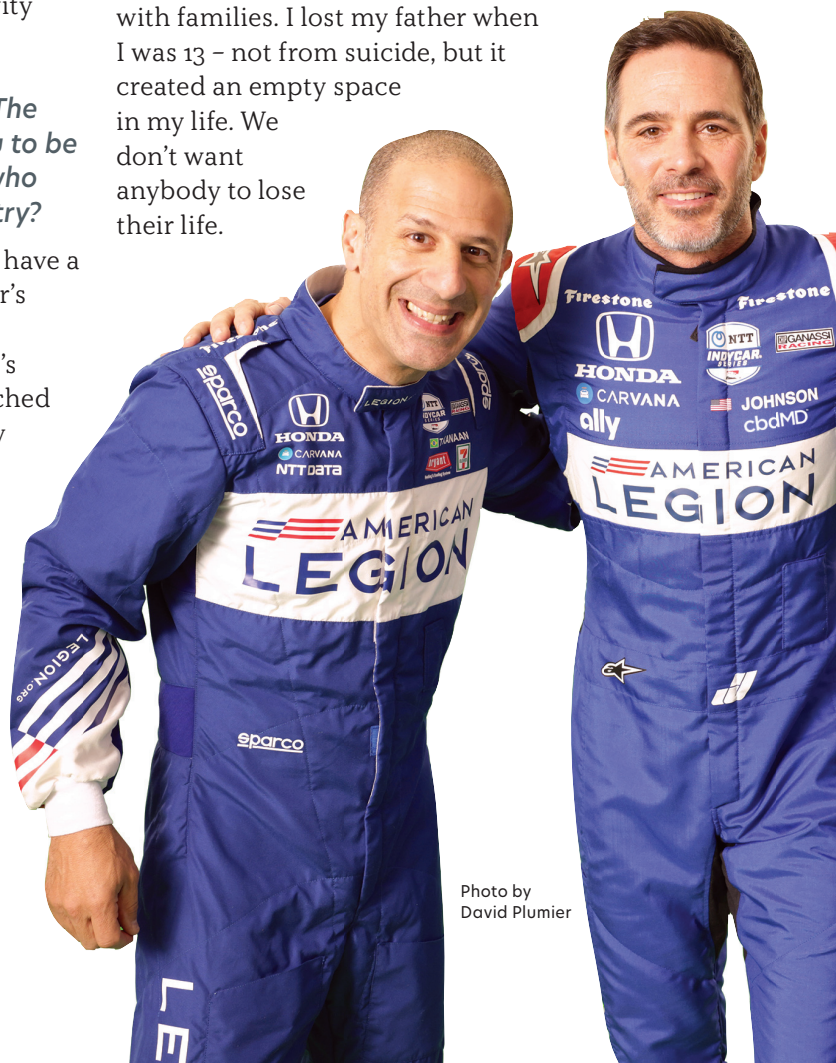


Photo by  
David Plumier



BY HENRY HOWARD

## Tony Kanaan, Jimmie Johnson and Alex Palou lead The American Legion's efforts to reduce veteran suicide rate, accelerate growth of 100 Miles for Hope and more.

**Johnson:** The world is more aware of depression and mental health in general. Then you think of men and women who are serving our country and the environment and situations they might find themselves in during combat. It's easy to understand why we have a problem. To know that The American Legion is working hard to make that known, using myself and INDYCAR to help spread that word – I'm honored we get to help.

**Palou:** I want to contribute and help people who are struggling. It doesn't improve like that (snaps fingers), but with The American Legion's help, it can improve bit by bit. The work we are doing with The American Legion will make a difference. Hopefully next year at this time the numbers will be down and we can be proud of it.

*Describe your feelings when the national anthem plays before a race.*

**Kanaan, who immigrated from**

**Brazil:** We live in the best country in the world. I see how Americans are extremely proud of their flag. And since I became one, it makes me proud to sing the anthem. It's a feeling of respect and being grateful to be able to be accepted in this country.

**Johnson:** I'm in that race mode, and it's

always impressive to me how quiet it becomes when the national anthem is sung. It's beautiful and spectacular.

**Palou, who is on a visa working toward citizenship:** Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to live here in America and experience the culture. The anthem is so special because of what it means. On the racing side, it's a time where everyone wants to be focused. Everybody takes two minutes to listen to it and be part of the ceremony. I really enjoy it. I love it.

*The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope challenge encourages members to cover 100 miles by Sept. 5 while raising donations for the Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation. Why is it important for non-athletes to exercise regularly, and how should they approach the challenge?*

**Kanaan:** Just get out and exercise. It doesn't matter if you are walking, hiking, biking, swimming, running or just moving. It clears your mind. That's what drives me. And if you are depressed, it's even more important. You just can't sit around. You need to get up and move around. You will feel much better. That's why we are doing the 100 Miles fitness challenge.

**Johnson:** I'm inspired to hear about 100 Miles for Hope. The physical benefits I receive from being active are nice. But the thing that surprised me is the mental aspect I have received from trying to stay fit.

**Palou:** If you look at 100 miles, it's a lot. But if you break it into small targets you can reach every day, it's not that much. I encourage my family, my grandfathers, to go for a walk. It's really good for your overall health and mentally too. Just break it down. Do 15 minutes today, 30 minutes tomorrow. It doesn't take much. 🏆

*Henry Howard is deputy director of the American Legion Media & Communications Division.*





# This Century's West Berlin

*To keep Beijing away, the United States needs to be clear about its commitment to Taiwan.*

BY ALAN W. DOWD

Vladimir Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine and all the consequences flowing from it – the human and economic costs, the geopolitical fallout, the humanitarian tragedy, the military-security ramifications – have given us a glimpse of what lies ahead if Xi Jinping keeps his word and tries to absorb Taiwan. Deterring him from taking that step must be viewed as a vital national-security interest of the United States.

Xi's words and actions – not unlike Putin's in his buildup to war – suggest he is ready to move against Taiwan.

Consider Beijing's published military strategy, which describes "the Taiwan issue" as

key to "China's reunification and long-term development." Xi declares, "Complete reunification of the motherland ... will definitely be fulfilled." He ominously adds, "We make no promise to abandon the use of force and retain the option of taking all necessary measures" against Taiwan, which he considers the PRC's 34th province.

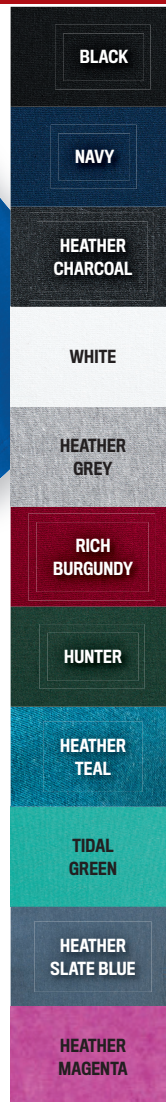
These words are deeply problematic. Taiwan has never been ruled by the PRC, so "reunification" is inaccurate. Beijing is misusing the word in an effort to legitimize plans to annex Taiwan and delegitimize Taiwan's sovereignty.

Moreover, 85% of Taiwan's population oppose Beijing's idea of unification. Not surprisingly,



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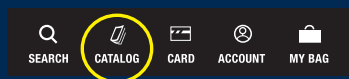


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Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, calls the island democracy "a sovereign independent country."

This chasm between how Beijing views Taiwan and how Taiwan views itself is leading to a perilous test of wills.

**Actions** If Beijing's words are problematic, its actions are downright warlike.

On a single day this year, Beijing deployed 39 fighter and bomber aircraft into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ). Last year, Taiwan weathered 969 of these PRC incursions – up from 380 in 2020. A four-day stretch last year saw Beijing hurl 149 warplanes into Taiwan's ADIZ, prompting Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to conclude, "It looks like a rehearsal." Also in 2021, Beijing conducted simultaneous wargames off Taiwan's east and west coasts.

In 2020, while the world tried to cope with a made-in-China pandemic, Beijing conducted provocative naval exercises around Taiwan, violated the median line separating PRC-Taiwan airspace, practiced large-scale amphibious assaults, test-fired missiles in the South China Sea and – in violation of international treaties and in an unmistakable signal to Taiwan – absorbed Hong Kong.

In 2018 and 2019, Beijing employed misinformation and manipulation of social media to weaken pro-autonomy candidates and boost pro-Beijing candidates. In 2015 and 2016, a PRC aircraft carrier circled the island and satellites snapped images of PRC training grounds featuring mockups of key infrastructure in Taiwan: the presidential complex, Taichung Airport and the foreign ministry.

**Targets** The Pentagon concludes Beijing is "preparing for potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait." If such a conflict comes, it won't be a fair fight.

According to the Pentagon, PRC assets based near Taiwan include 416,000 troops, six amphibious ships, 700 fighter aircraft, 250 bombers/attack aircraft and 253 warships. The PRC also has two aircraft carriers and more than 1,600 missiles opposite Taiwan.

Taiwan has 88,000 troops, 109 navy and coast guard vessels, 400 fighter aircraft, zero

**67** Percent of Taiwan's population who identify as Taiwanese, up 8.5% from last year

**2.4** Percent of Taiwan's population who identify as Chinese, down 3.3% from last year

Source: National Chengchi University's Election Study Center

amphibious ships and zero bombers.

Beijing's military buildup around Taiwan is just a microcosm of its wider military expansion. Beijing has built the world's largest navy, massively expanded its nuclear arsenal and nuclear-missile beds, increased military spending by 514% (since 2000), claimed a vast swath of the South China Sea and erected illegal islands to back up those claims.

A PRC attack on Taiwan would directly affect America's third- and eighth-largest trading partners, disrupt one-third of global shipping and put at risk more than half of the world's semiconductor production.

Moreover, a takeover of Taiwan would give Xi reason to believe he can move against other targets. In addition to Taiwan, Beijing has territorial disputes with 16 nations, including U.S. treaty allies Japan, the Philippines and South Korea. If America failed to come to Taiwan's defense, those allies would doubt America's security commitment, and Beijing would exploit those doubts to great effect.

**Defenses** If, as Henry Kissinger concludes, the United States and China are in "the foothills of a cold war," then Taiwan is arguably this century's West Berlin: a tiny island of freedom under constant, immediate threat from a communist behemoth.

Now, as during Cold War I, it's imperative that the free world defend this patch of free government. Now, as during Cold War I, showing readiness and willingness to repel an attack will help deter an attack. However, deterrence only works if the enemy believes the costs of aggression are greater than any potential benefits of aggression.





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The bad news is that Taiwan and the United States haven't done enough in recent years to deter Beijing.

Compare Taiwan's defense spending as a share of GDP (1.9%) with that of countries under similar threat: Israel invests 5.6% of GDP on defense, India 2.9%, South Korea 2.8%.

Taiwan is working to correct its deterrence gaps. In 2019, Taiwan announced its biggest defense-spending increase in a decade. Taiwan's spending is now at its highest level since the 1990s. Taipei plans to allocate 2.3% of GDP to defense.

How Taipei invests in defense is as important as how much it invests overall. What's been termed "a porcupine defense" – one that would make an invasion so painful as to dissuade Beijing from even attempting it – would focus on antiship missiles, "smart" mines capable of remote activation/deactivation, inexpensive unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) and drones capable of swarm attacks, shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles, VSTOL fighter-bombers capable of operating without runways, nondigital communications operable despite cyberattacks, and a citizenry trained and equipped for small-unit operations. These are the kinds of countermeasures that have bled Putin's army in Ukraine.

Indeed, Xi must be made to understand that attempting in Taiwan what Putin has done in Ukraine will lead not to victory parades and an ascendant legacy, but to his troops in body bags, his military hardware in flames, his invasion force and international standing in tatters.

Toward that end, the United States should expedite and expand delivery of such countermeasures. Those defenses need to start flowing now. Unlike Ukraine, which shares land borders with four NATO allies – representing numerous overland delivery corridors allowing for resupply – Taiwan is hundreds of miles away from the nearest U.S. base. And America's Indo-Pacific allies won't be as eager as their European counterparts to join a resupply operation, especially once PRC missiles start flying. Indeed, Beijing has trained its vast antiship-missile arsenal on the maritime approaches to Taiwan.

Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), has a population of 23.8 million and a land area slightly larger than New Mexico. The island's industrial economy is the 21st largest in the world, with major contributions from steel, machinery, electronics and chemical manufacturing.

Source: East Asia National Resource Center, George Washington University

A timeless insight from President Franklin D.

Roosevelt serves as a sharp counterpoint to objections from Xi and his apologists: "Such aid is not an act of war, even if a dictator should unilaterally proclaim it so to be." Deterring aggression doesn't constitute aggression.

**Ships** America also needs to invest more in its own deterrent strength. America's deterrent was credible for much of Cold War I – but not the early phases, when Moscow blockaded West Berlin and greenlit the invasion of South Korea. America may be facing a similar deterrent deficit today vis-à-vis Beijing.

Recently, near the end of his tenure commanding U.S. Army-Pacific, Gen. Robert Brown noticed that his PRC counterparts "don't fear us anymore." That's regrettable but understandable. As America's defense budget limps away from sequestration and struggles to stay ahead of inflation, the calculus is rapidly shifting in Beijing.

The U.S. defense budget is 3.2% of GDP. The average during Cold War I was twice that. At the height of President Ronald Reagan's rebuild, the Navy boasted 594 ships. The Navy deploys just 296 ships today – and those ships are dispersed around the world, while China's 355 warships are concentrated in its neighborhood.

Today's Navy may be more ambidextrous than yesterday's, but deterrence is about presence. America's Navy lacks the ships to be present all the places it's needed. According to CNO Adm. Mike Gilday, "We need a naval force of over 500 ships."



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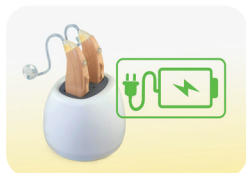
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**Commitments** To keep Beijing at bay, we also need a clear commitment to Taiwan's security. From Kiev to Kabul, Washington's commitment to non-treaty partners has been anything but clear in recent years.

Under the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), neither side of the Taiwan Strait knows exactly what Washington would do in the event of war. The TRA pledges America will provide Taiwan "capacity ... to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion."

There's nothing in the TRA's lawyerly words that guarantees Taiwan's security or obliges the United States to come to Taiwan's defense. This policy of "strategic ambiguity" may have served a purpose in the past, but it's a recipe for disaster today.

There's a reason Washington crafted mutual-defense treaties during Cold War I with clear statements of U.S. commitment, a reason U.S. troops stayed in West Berlin, a reason U.S. forces have been on the 38th Parallel since 1953, and are now forward-deployed in the Baltics and Poland. These factors remove any doubt about the consequences. That certainty of response – the promise that the costs of aggression will be greater than the benefits – is the essence of deterrence. And it works. The ambiguity that characterizes the TRA, on the other hand, is leading to miscalculation, which often leads to war.

**Signals** The good news is that key allies are signaling it's time for clarity in Taiwan.

Nobuo Kishi, Japan's defense minister, declares, "The peace and stability of Taiwan are directly connected to Japan." Peter Dutton, Australia's defense minister, says it would be "inconceivable that we wouldn't support the United States" in defending Taiwan.

Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have spoken up for Taiwan. The most powerful of these was Milos Vystřil, president of the Czech senate, who traveled to Taipei to address Taiwan's legislature. Like Kennedy in Berlin and Wu in Ukraine, Vystřil declared, in Mandarin, "I'm a Taiwanese."

Washington, too, is sending signals. In 2015, after a PRC bomber menaced Taiwan, the Obama administration landed two F-18s on the

island (the first such landing since 1985), citing what the Pentagon called a "warning light" issue. In truth, Washington was reminding Beijing that Taiwan isn't alone. The Obama administration also approved \$14 billion in weapons sales to Taiwan.

President Donald Trump broke the taboo of communicating directly with Taiwan's leader by phone, increased freedom-of-navigation operations through the Taiwan Strait, authorized \$15 billion in arms sales and dispatched a cabinet official to Taiwan (the highest-level U.S. government visit since 1979). U.S. Navy vessels docked in Taiwan in 2018 and 2019. In addition, the Trump administration quietly deployed U.S. troops to the island to train Taiwanese personnel.

The Biden administration let it be known that U.S. troops were on the island. Calling Taiwan "a critical economic and security partner," Biden invited Taiwan's top diplomat to his inauguration. And when asked if "the United States would come to Taiwan's defense," Biden bluntly responded, "Yes."

The Taiwan Invasion Prevention Act would codify those words. If passed into law, it would authorize the use of force "to secure and protect Taiwan against ... direct armed attack" by PRC military forces.

There's risk in all this. But World War I reminds us that there's greater risk in leaving defense guarantees opaque. World War II and Cold War I remind us that making the necessary investments to deter war is far less costly than waging war. And Russia's rampage through Ukraine reminds us that helping free nations harden their territory against invasion is preferable to scrambling to help them try to claw it back.

Yes, Taiwan is relatively remote. It's in the crosshairs of a military juggernaut, and that juggernaut has conventional advantages in theater. But each of these factors applied in West Berlin, which was literally surrounded by Soviet bloc armies. Kennedy called West Berlin "a defended island of freedom." It remained free only because it was defended. 🌿

*Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute Center for America's Purpose.*



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folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it's designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a So Lite™ Scooter of your very own.



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# 'Ringside, hell! We'll be in the arena!'

*American Legion founder's final letters from Normandy describe "the great venture of war."*

*Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and Maj. Gen. R.O. Barton on D-Day*  
Library of Congress

**"D**ay Before Yesterday" – written by Eleanor B. Roosevelt, wife of American Legion founder Theodore Roosevelt Jr. – was published in 1959, less than one year before her death. It eloquently recounts her life among the Roosevelts – outdoors, in business, in the press, in politics and, in the case of her husband, on the front lines of two world wars.

In the book's final chapter, she shared some of the last words she received from her husband, a 56-year-old brigadier general, as he prepared for the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

She wrote that in a meeting of officers before the D-Day operation, Gen. Omar Bradley had told others of high rank that they would have ringside seats at the greatest fight in history. "Ringside, hell!" Roosevelt Jr. reportedly said. "We'll be in the arena!"

Indeed, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Jr. would not be in the rear echelon. He would storm ashore in the first wave at Utah Beach, helping others cross the sands through enemy fire, brandishing only his cane and a sidearm. His son Quentin, meanwhile, would land at Omaha Beach. Their willingness to fight at the front was unprecedented for the son

and grandson of a U.S. president. Eleanor shared the last two letters he wrote to her.

"On June 5, 1944, he wrote ..."

*We are starting on the great venture of the war, and by the time you get this, for better or for worse, it will be history.*

*We are attacking by daylight, the most heavily fortified coast in history, a shore held by excellent troops. We are throwing excellent troops at it, well armed and backed by good air and naval support.*

*We are on our transports, buttoned up, our next stop France. The Germans know we are coming, for the harbors of southern England have been crowded with our shipping and the roads choked with our convoys.*

*I don't think I've written you that I go in with the assault wave and hit the beach at H-Hour. I'm doing it because it's the way I can contribute most. It steadies the young men to know that I am with them, to see me plodding along with my cane. We've got to break the crust with the first wave or we're sunk, for the following groups won't get in. At first, (Gen. Raymond) Tubby Barton didn't want me to do this, but eventually he agreed after I'd written a formal letter stating my reasons.*

*Quentin goes in, I believe, at H plus 60. That's bad enough. Frankly, it may be worse than when I go in.*

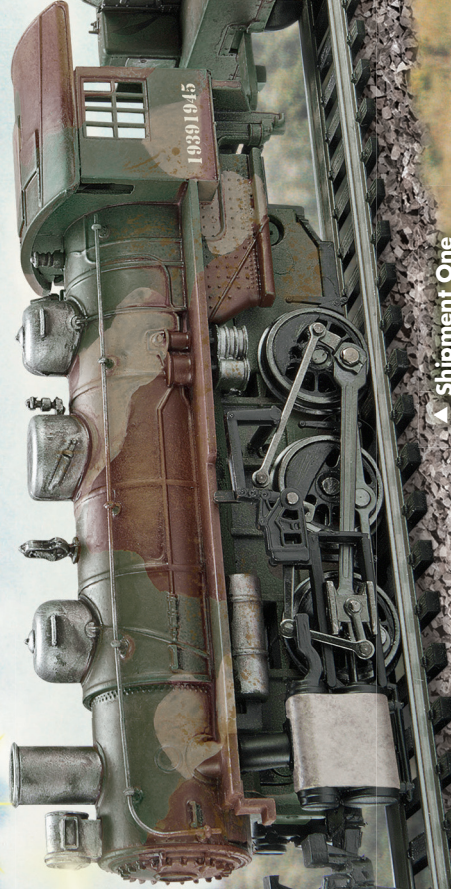


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*We've had a grand life and I hope there'll be more. Should it chance that there's not, at least we can say that in our years together we've packed enough for ten ordinary lives. We've known joy and sorrow, triumph and disaster, all that goes to fill the pattern of human existence. Our children are grown and our grandchildren are here. We have been very happy. I pray we may be together again.*

*This will be the last for the present. The ship is dark, the men are going to their assembly stations. Before going on deck, they sit in darkened corridors to adjust their eyes. Soon, the boats will be lowered. Then we'll be off.*

In the book she wrote of her husband's landing, over three-quarters of a mile from the planned location, and how he assisted troops from his own landing craft and then others "for hours." His actions that day would earn him the Medal of Honor less than four months later. Once inland, he served briefly as military governor at Cherbourg, where his headquarters was "a cellar lit by a single oil lamp."

*"The last letter he wrote me was dated July 10, 1944 ..."*

*Well, I've got a little home in a truck. It was captured from the Germans by one of our units and given to me by them. The ordnance has done it over and I've got a desk and a bed in it. The inside is painted white. (Driver Kurt) Show is having a time fixing it up. He's put a headboard on the bed, made from the bank of an old French chair. He's found a place for my footlocker and bag. He's put in an electric light. I feel positively a softie.*

*The truck arrived yesterday at (a) most opportune moment, for the old chassis had begun to feel the strain of these few years of combat. I was a pretty sick rabbit, and it had been raining for God knows how long. It still is, for that matter. I got in and was dry after I'd screwed up energy to take off my drenched clothes. The Doc came and said with a little embarrassment that my troubles were primarily from having put an inhuman strain on a machine that was not exactly new. Anyway, he gave me something to make me sleep, and this morning I was almost as good as new.*

*It's getting late and tomorrow we attack again – as we will day after tomorrow. Artillery is firing nearby – the heavies – and every salvo shakes this paper. I'm glad you've liked my letters.*

Roosevelt Jr., however, would not live through the "day after tomorrow." On July 12, 1944, he died of a heart attack in his makeshift home, the seized and refurbished German truck that had seen more than its share of warfare, as had the eldest son of the 26th president.

"Orders giving him command of the 90th Division and recommending him for promotion to major general," Eleanor wrote, "... were on Gen. Eisenhower's desk to be signed next day. This he never knew." 🌿



## Statue of Liberation

A June 6 ceremony in Sainte-Mère-Église, France, is set to unveil and dedicate a statue of Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. as one of two "Statues of Liberation" to be installed in the first city liberated by Americans after D-Day.

Internationally known sculptor Pablo Eduardo of Massachusetts used a variety of images of the American Legion founder to make the figure, which is cast in bronze and an aggregate of metals from bullet casings, mortar shells and other materiel recovered from the 1944 battlefields.

A second statue, depicting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower addressing the troops before Operation Overlord, is set to be installed in June 2023.

Statues of Liberation is a project led by The American Legion, Amis des Vétérans Américains and Operation Democracy of Locust Valley, N.Y.



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## The U.S. Mint Just Struck Morgan Silver Dollars for the First Time in 100 Years!

It's been more than 100 years since the last Morgan Silver Dollar was struck for circulation. Morgans were the preferred currency of cowboys, ranchers and outlaws and earned a reputation as the coin that helped build the Wild West. Struck in 90% silver from 1878 to 1904, then again in 1921, these silver dollars came to be known by the name of their designer, George T. Morgan. They are one of the most revered, most-collected, vintage U.S. Silver Dollars ever.

### Celebrating the 100th Anniversary with Legal-Tender Morgans

Honoring the 100th anniversary of the last year they were minted, the U.S. Mint struck five different versions of the Morgan in 2021, paying tribute to each of the mints that struck the coin. The coins here honor the historic New Orleans Mint, a U.S. Mint branch from 1838–1861 and again from 1879–1909. These coins, featuring an "O" privy mark, a small differentiating mark, were struck in Philadelphia since the New Orleans Mint no longer exists. These beautiful

coins are different than the originals because they're struck in 99.9% fine silver instead of 90% silver/10% copper, and they were struck using modern technology, serving to enhance the details of the iconic design.

### Very Limited. Sold Out at the Mint!

The U.S. Mint limited the production of these gorgeous coins to just 175,000, a ridiculously low number. Not surprisingly, they sold out almost instantly! That means you need to hurry to add these bright, shiny, new legal-tender Morgan Silver Dollars with the New Orleans privy mark, struck in 99.9% PURE Silver, to your collection. Call 1-888-395-3219 to secure yours now. PLUS, you'll receive a BONUS American Collectors Pack, valued at \$25, FREE with your order. Call now. These will not last!

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# LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOFFER  
ART: GARY MARTIN  
COLOR: MARCUS ESKOW  
EDITOR: AUGUST UHL

LIKE MANY AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDEES, THEODORE ROOSEVELT JR. RETURNS TO DUTY IN WORLD WAR II. HE RE-ENTERS THE ARMY AS A COLONEL, SOON PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AFTER FRONT-LINE COMBAT LEADERSHIP IN NORTH AFRICA AND ITALY, HE IS TRANSFERRED TO ENGLAND AND PREPARES FOR THE ALLIED INVASION OF NORMANDY.

MAJ. GEN. RAYMOND "TUBBY" BARTON INITIALLY REJECTS ROOSEVELT'S REQUEST TO COME ASHORE IN THE FIRST WAVE. THE SON OF THE 26TH U.S. PRESIDENT ARGUES THAT HIS COMBAT EXPERIENCE AND PRESENCE ON THE BEACHHEAD "WILL STEADY" THE MEN. BARTON RELUCTANTLY AGREES.

ON D-DAY, ROOSEVELT'S HIGGINS BOAT VEERS OFF COURSE - BY A MILE. HIS FAMOUS RESPONSE: "WE'LL START THE WAR FROM RIGHT HERE!"

ARMED ONLY WITH A PISTOL, AND USING A CANE, HE KEEPS THE MEN MOVING ACROSS THE BEACH, AMID ENEMY FIRE. AT 56, HE IS THE OLDEST AMERICAN AND ONLY GENERAL TO COME ASHORE IN THE FIRST WAVE.

ONCE INLAND, HIS JEEP IS PAINTED WITH THE WORDS "ROUGH RIDERS" HONORING HIS FATHER'S FAMOUS SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR UNIT.

FOR HIS ACTIONS ON JUNE 6, 1944, ROOSEVELT JR. RECEIVES THE MEDAL OF HONOR -

BUT IT IS PRESENTED POSTHUMOUSLY ON SEPT. 21 THAT YEAR.

ON JULY 12, 1944, HE DIES OF A HEART ATTACK AND IS SOON BURIED AT A TEMPORARY CEMETERY IN STE. MERE-EGLEISE.

GENS. GEORGE PATTON AND OMAR BRADLEY ARE HONORARY PALLBEARERS AT HIS FUNERAL. HE IS LATER MOVED TO THE NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY AT COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, WHERE HIS IS ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY VISITED GRAVES TODAY.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT JR.  
BRIGADIER GENERAL U.S. ARMY  
NEW YORK, JULY 12, 1941

"HIS VALOR, COURAGE, AND PRESENCE IN THE VERY FRONT OF THE ATTACK AND HIS COMPLETE UNCONCERN AT BEING UNDER HEAVY FIRE INSPIRED THE TROOPS TO HEIGHTS OF ENTHUSIASM AND SELF-SACRIFICE ... UNDER HIS SEASONED, PRECISE, CALM, AND UNFLINCHING LEADERSHIP, ASSAULT TROOPS REDUCED BEACH STRONG POINTS AND RAPIDLY MOVED INLAND WITH MINIMUM CASUALTIES. HE THUS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BEACHHEAD IN FRANCE."

- FROM THE MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION FOR BRIG. GEN. THEODORE ROOSEVELT JR.

#46





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*"You trust your parents' reasoning behind 'because I said so' because they are making fast decisions that probably promote your safety and well-being. You need to be able to trust your president to do the same. Executive orders are an extremely valuable tool because they are much faster than passing a law through the legislative branch; however, they are not trivial to undo .... It is a citizen's responsibility to vote for someone you trust with the power of executive orders."*

**Emma Noble** of Birmingham, Ala., who won first place and a \$25,000 scholarship at The American Legion's 83rd National Oratorical Contest on April 24 in Indianapolis. Sponsored by American Legion Post 555 in Pelham, Ala., Noble joined 49 other department Oratorical winners in presenting a rehearsed eight- to 10-minute oration on an aspect of the Constitution in front of judges, as well as a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic discourse. Photo by AJ Mast



## Convention app upgraded for 2022

The American Legion's national convention app is an invaluable tool for convention-goers, providing updated schedules for meetings, speakers, floor events and more. And this year, it's getting an upgrade.

For the 103rd National Convention, Aug. 26 to Sept. 1 in Milwaukee, the app will also include floor plans, multimedia options, profiles of honorees, and agendas for everything from the Patriotic Memorial Service to Subject Matter Expert Training, as well as information about the host city and any health and wellness protocols in force.

The app will be the only way to get most of this information. The traditional convention program book will serve more as a souvenir and snapshot for American Legion Family members to remember their experience.

The convention app is available to download free to your mobile device from the Apple Store or Google Play, and will be updated closer to the convention. Search the stores for "The American Legion National Convention," or access them via [legion.org/mobileapps](https://legion.org/mobileapps).

### Tickets available for Oktoberfest, baseball

Legion Family Day is Sunday, Aug. 28, at Milwaukee Oktoberfest, held at the War Memorial Center on the shore of Lake Michigan. Tickets are available for one of two sessions, at \$300 for a table for eight and \$15 for an individual. Proceeds benefit the War Memorial Center and American Legion programs. To purchase tickets, go to [kegelsinn.com/legionnaires](https://kegelsinn.com/legionnaires).

The Milwaukee Brewers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates at American Family Field on Monday, Aug. 29, at 7:10 p.m. Tickets for Legion Family members range from \$9 to \$20, and can be purchased online at [brewers.com/americanlegion](https://brewers.com/americanlegion).



American Family Field. Photo courtesy Visit Milwaukee



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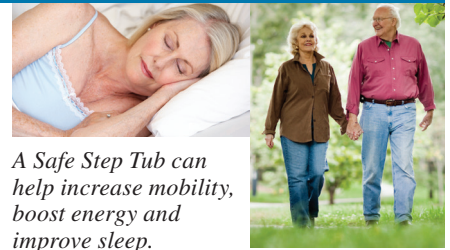
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|--|---|
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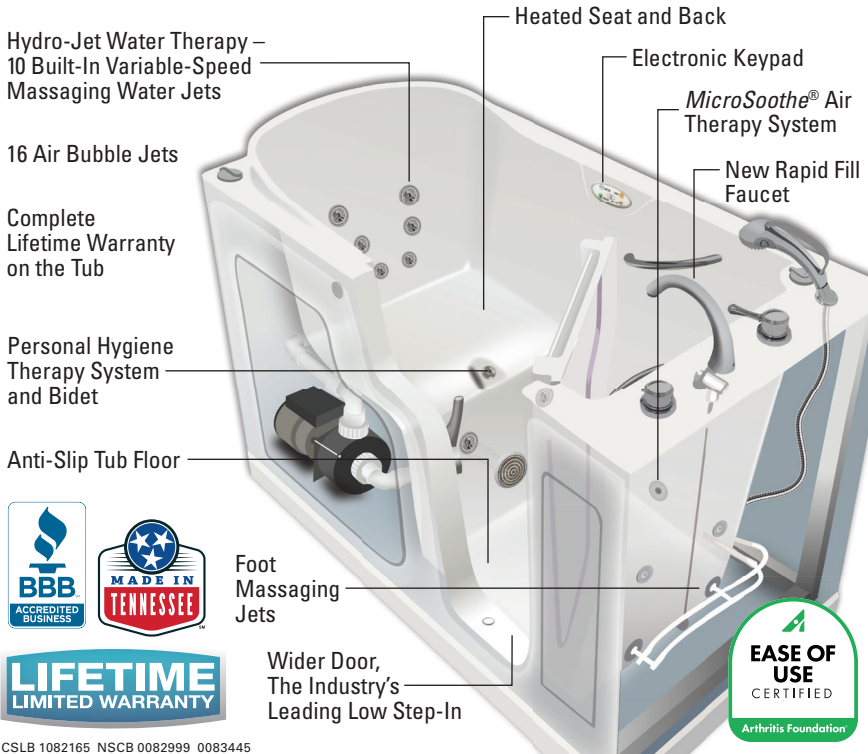


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# 'You can't beat the in-person'

*North Carolina Post 67's veterans events continue to make a difference.*

After a two-year pause caused by the pandemic, Cary, N.C., American Legion Post 67's Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC) was back in action March 17-19 for what has been renamed Veterans Benefits Live (VBL).

Attending Day 1 were Stephen Stratton and his wife, Sharon. Both are veterans – Sharon of the Air Force and Stephen the Army – and both came seeking information on VA benefits.

For Sharon, attending VBL and meeting in person someone from the Veterans Benefits Administration "was very valuable. I got information today that I've been trying to get the last couple of years."

It was the same for her husband, who said similar events are not available where they live on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Post 67 providing an event such as VBL shows the Legion cares about veterans, he said, "to make sure we get the help and the information we need to be productive the rest of our post-military service."

Post 67 Commander Richard Spyrisson, who coordinated all three pre-COVID events and VBL, said being able to resume "was fabulous. Looking back over the last couple of days, the need is greater right now. To see a veteran walk in with a chip on their shoulder and exit with a smile on their face – whether they got their rating or not, he knows what he's got to do to finish, he's got the answer he needs. That's a big weight off their shoulder."

Also participating were representatives from Humana, VA's Vet Center and the Durham VA Health Care System. Veterans were able to enroll in the VA



*Post 67 Commander Richard Spyrisson, left, speaks with Buddie Page, center, of Wilson County, N.C., and Pamela Thomas of the Marine Corps League. Photo by John West*

health-care system, and get ID cards printed on the spot; more than 200 did so through VBL.

Spyrisson, who is still waiting to get official numbers from VA officials, estimates around 400 veterans attended VBL's opening day, while another 650 came during Friday's and Saturday's sessions.

Derrick Mitchell, a member of Post 284 in Colonial Heights, Va., and an American Legion-accredited

veterans service officer, attended an earlier event and brought his father and some other veterans to receive assistance. Two left with 100% disability ratings; the results had Mitchell bringing more veterans this year. This time, the retired Army veteran volunteered all three days.

Being face to face with a VA rep allows "you to cut down on a lot of the red tape," Mitchell said. "You can't beat the in-person, obviously. When (veterans) walk out you see them smiling, like they have this big weight lifted off them. They learn what they need to do and get pointed in the right direction."

That's the mission of VBL, Spyrisson said.

"If we can help one veteran, just one, we've done our job. If we can help two, that's gravy. And that's our objective. We're veterans helping veterans. If we don't take the initiative to get something like this going ... nobody's going to help these people, and they're going to continue to get lost in the system. Yeah, it's a lot of work. But the reward of seeing them get something accomplished and get some answers ... that's why we do it."

– Steven B. Brooks

*"We're just shocked. How does this young guy pick up the receiver and figure out how to dial 911?"*

**Brian Davis** of Andover, Minn., who installed a working pay phone on his property for fun last year. In April, a lost child used it to call for help; authorities located him and took him home. The cost of dialing out on the pay phone is \$1, and Davis doesn't make much. "Not a real profitable business, I'll tell you that," he says. Source: FOX 9





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RAPID FIRE



Photo by Jeff Stoffer

## Iron Riders on the road again

### *Cycling trips, re-enactments and more honor Buffalo Soldiers' great experiment.*

A variety of events, exhibits, tours and bicycle rides of varying length - including a 1,900-mile journey from Missoula, Mont., to St. Louis - will honor the 125th anniversary of a late-19th-century experiment to see if two-wheeled transportation could replace horses in the U.S. military.

Activities are planned June 14-16 in Missoula, June 17 in Wallace, Idaho, and June 18-19 back in Missoula. On the first day - Flag Day - a group of cyclists takes off from Fort Missoula at 5:40 a.m. to begin the ride to St. Louis. Shorter rides have also been mapped out in Montana, some of which are self-guided and others available for purchase with food, housing and other services available. Also recently added to the plans are scenic motorcycle rides, including a 200-mile June 16 poker run.

Taken on by the 25th Infantry Division "Buffalo Soldiers" bicycle corps at Fort Missoula, the experiment included rides in full gear through Montana in 1896 and a five-state mission to reach St. Louis the next year.

Newport Harbor, Calif., American Legion member Bobby McDonald, whose ancestors were Buffalo Soldiers, is organizing the program. Details are online at [ironriders2022.org](http://ironriders2022.org). American Legion members and posts are welcome to ride along or cheer cyclists on as they replicate the June 14, 1897, ride that took 41 days before soldiers were greeted by 10,000 well-wishers in St. Louis.

#### **ROUTES INCLUDE:**

- **10 miles** Holiday Inn, Missoula, to Fort Missoula, self-guided
- **18-24 miles** A loop beginning and ending at Fort Missoula that meanders along the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers
- **27 miles** Fort Missoula to Fort Fizzle is a 27-mile round trip to the historic camp near Lolo, Mont., where the cavalry stopped temporarily in its pursuit of the Nez Perce people in 1877.
- **70 miles** The Lubrecht Experimental Forest route follows roughly the same route as the Iron Riders along the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers.
- **246 miles** This three-day \$799 trip travels the approximate route of the August 1896 ride to Yellowstone, from Missoula to Three Forks.
- **1,900 miles** Professional adventure cyclist Erick Cedeño leaves Fort Missoula at 5:40 a.m. June 14 and arrives 41 days later in St. Louis.



# The Invention of the Year

## The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

*Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation . . . The Zinger.*

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough . . . a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

***"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"***

***—Kent C., California***

The first thing you'll notice about the **Zinger** is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum. It weighs only 47.2 lbs but can handle a passenger that's up to 275 lbs! It features



Available in Green,  
Black (shown) and Blue



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The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle

## CNO calls for bigger Navy

According to U.S. Naval Institute News, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday is calling for a naval force of more than 500 ships – 263 manned ships, 150 unmanned ships, and 100 logistics and supply ships. Among them:



## No more talkin' Turkey

Frustrated by its connection to the flightless bird of the same name, the government of Turkey is officially changing its Western, anglicized name to "Türkiye," the *Washington Examiner* reports. According to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, switching the spelling "represents and expresses the culture, civilization and values of the Turkish nation in the best way."

The word "Türkiye" will be used on exported products and in communications with the English-speaking world.

"The association with the bird genuinely annoys Erdoğan and the people around him," Selim Koru of the Foreign Policy Research Institute told *The Week*. "It's not a surprise given the government's sensitivity to how the country is perceived."



## Bomb my house

Ukrainian millionaire Andrey Stavnitsky asked the Ukrainian military to bomb his mansion, and Ukraine's troops obliged, as the *Washington Examiner* reports. After fleeing his home, Stavnitsky saw, via remote links to his home-security cameras, that Russian troops had turned his property into a depot for rockets and missiles. So he gave the Ukrainian army the coordinates of his home, and Ukrainian forces destroyed 12 Russian military vehicles and a BM-21 rocket-launch system.

"It was kind of an obvious decision for me," Stavnitsky said. "There is not much you can do nowadays to help (the) military, and that was one of the opportunities that I had."

## Street for heroes

In the wake of Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine, Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, has changed the name of the street on which the Russian Embassy is located to "Ukrainian Heroes' Street," the *Guardian* reports.

"From today, the business card of every employee of the Russian Embassy will be decorated with a note honoring Ukraine's fighting, and everyone will have to think about the atrocities of the Russian regime against the peaceful Ukrainian nation when writing this street name," Vilnius Mayor Remigijus Simasius said.

In Riga, the capital of Latvia, city officials have renamed the Russian Embassy's address to "Independent Ukraine Street."



# IF YOU'RE A VETERAN WEARING ADULT DIAPERS TO CONTROL URINARY INCONTINENCE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

**"I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It's a Godsend."**

— John, Men's Liberty user



**Did you know that over 18%<sup>1</sup> or almost twice as many men with military service experience urinary incontinence?**

If you're a veteran looking for urinary incontinence solutions for daily leaks or as a result of an injury while serving our country, Men's Liberty™ can help you get out of absorbent products, condom catheters or pads and start living your life without letting incontinence get in your way.

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<b>Directs urine away from the skin?</b>	<b>YES</b> Completely external design collects fluid into a discreet pouch — leak-free	<b>NO</b> Traps moisture which stays in contact with skin causing discomfort or infection
<b>Reduces the risk of infections?</b>	<b>YES</b> More than 5 million Men's Liberty units have been sold, with reduced risk of infections or skin injuries	<b>NO</b> High incidence of diaper rash, sores, yeast infections and dermatitis
<b>Invisible under clothing?</b>	<b>YES</b> Men's Liberty is unnoticeable — only you know it's there	<b>NO</b> Awkward diapers can be ill-fitting, bulky and uncomfortable
<b>Little to no out-of-pocket cost?</b>	<b>YES</b> Covered by Medicare, most Medicaid plans, many private insurance plans, workers compensation and VA/Tricare	<b>NO</b> Adult diapers are not covered by Medicare, costing users up to \$300 a month

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<sup>1</sup>Vaughan CP, Johnson TM 2nd, Goode PS, Redden DT, Burgio KL, Markland AD. Military exposure and urinary incontinence among American men. J Urol. 2014 Jan; 191(1):125-9. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.07.016. Epub 2013 Jul 16. PMID: 23871759.

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**THE JOB FRONT** BY WENDY S. ENELOW

## How to write a résumé that stands out

The first recorded use of the word "résumé" was between 1795 and 1805 and comes from the French "résumer," which means "to sum up." A more recent definition, from Merriam-Webster, defines a résumé as a "short account of one's career and qualifications." That is basically true, but also so much more than just a "short account."

Although your résumé will retrospectively tell your career story, it is not a retrospective document. In fact, the opposite is true. Your résumé is designed to share your career history and achievements as they relate to your current career goals and your ability to project into the future.

Consider the following: After a 20-year career in logistics, you're ready to transition into a similar position in the public sector. Obviously, your experience in logistics, purchasing, supply chain management, training and more are what you will share. Conversely, if you want to transition into corporate training, the résumé is quite different. Your focus shifts to training, course design, instructional technology and other related functions. Your logistics career will remain the foundation, but you're changing how items are weighted, emphasizing the training-related ones.

Much of today's job search is online, so make your résumé rich with keywords. Originally known as "buzzwords," these communicate critical information about your skills. For example, aviation mechanics would incorporate words such as aviation readiness, troubleshooting, materials management, technical training and more.

Keywords are the foundation for online searches. Recruiters identify the core qualifications they are seeking in candidates and use those words to search résumés and LinkedIn profiles. If you have the right keywords, you'll pass the first "test." If not, chances are you'll be overlooked.

Achievements are vital to the strength and competitiveness of your résumé. For example, most military recruiters perform the same basic job functions. That's true with just about any job title or position. What will distinguish you from all the other candidates is your record of success. Rather than writing that you "managed equipment deployment," write about how effectively you performed. Did you save money? Did you extend the life expectancy of equipment? Did you win awards or promotions? Don't just write what you did. Rather, write how well you did it.

Wendy Enelow is author of "Expert Résumé & LinkedIn Profiles for Managers & Executives" and other titles.  
[wendy@wendyenelow.com](mailto:wendy@wendyenelow.com)

## Estimated lifespans of U.S. paper money

\$1	6.6 years
\$5	4.7 years
\$10	5.3 years
\$20	7.8 years
\$50	12.2 years
\$100	22.9 years

Source: Federal Reserve



**MY GI BILL VETERANS & EDUCATION**  
 BY VALERIE HEFFNER

## Back to school with VR&E program

**Q:** *I was recently awarded a 40% service-connected disability rating from VA. I'm unable to continue as a truck driver, and I'm unable to retire as I have limited funds. Is it possible to go back to school to learn another trade as a disabled veteran?*

**A:** You may be eligible for the Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. VR&E assists veterans with employment options and subsidizes those with education and training needs. To be approved for this program, you must complete Application 28-1900. Once VA receives your application, an initial evaluation with a vocational rehabilitation counselor (VRC) will be scheduled. The VRC will determine what benefits and services you may need to enhance your new career path. If you are eligible to attend school, you will be entitled to Chapter 31 VR&E education benefits. The program will pay for tuition, fees, books and supplies, and provide you with a monthly housing allowance.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. [askvalerie@legion.org](mailto:askvalerie@legion.org)



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## Avoid a Social Security surprise

Social Security benefits are on the rise. The 2022 cost-of-living hike was nearly 6%, and there's no sign inflation is slowing down.

In other words, these benefits may now make up a larger part of your retirement income or play a bigger role in your retirement plan.

Ideally, guaranteed income streams like Social Security, military retirement, pensions and income annuities can cover your core expenses in retirement. So this type of increase is good news, especially if inflation fades. In the end, it's all about relative purchasing power.

What you don't want is a not-so-good surprise. There are two Social Security rules that might provide just that: the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. These rules could come into play if you or your spouse receive pensions from work for which you didn't pay Social Security taxes.

**Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)** This rule affects the Social Security retirement and disability benefits of folks who receive pensions from work for which they didn't pay Social Security taxes. Federal workers under the old Civil Service Retirement System and workers in some public school systems are prime examples. In these cases, the Social Security Administration could modify

your benefit calculation, resulting in a smaller payout. Read the details at [ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov) or by checking out Social Security Publication 05-10045. On the positive side, if you have 30 years of what are called substantial earnings, the rule won't affect your Social Security. If you've got at least 20, the impact is lessened.

**Government Pension Offset (GPO)** This rule also targets recipients of non-covered pensions, but it affects benefits they might receive based on their spouse's earnings record. It reduces or eliminates the benefits received as a spouse, widow or widower, cutting them by two-thirds of the amount of the non-covered pension. For example, a \$1,000 pension from a job in where Social Security taxes were not paid would reduce any benefits received as a spouse by \$667. This could be a game-changer if your survivor income plan relies heavily on Social Security benefits that might not be available. It is detailed in Social Security Publication 05-10007.

In the end you might not be able to avoid WEP or GPO, but you should understand how you or your spouse might be affected and plan accordingly.

*J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. [legion.org/usaa](https://legion.org/usaa)*

## Billions in COVID relief lost to fraud

Criminals have stolen nearly \$100 billion in COVID relief funds, CNBC reports, citing findings from the U.S. Secret Service.

Most of the funds were pilfered from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and a program created to speed delivery of unemployment assistance funds.

Just \$2.3 billion of these stolen funds have been recovered to date, and 100 suspects arrested, though there are 900 active investigations underway.

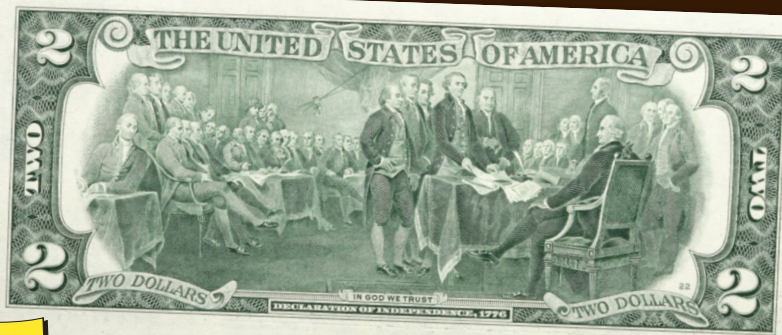
"I've never seen something at this scale," said Assistant Special Agent in Charge Roy Dotson, who serves as coordinator of a new national pandemic fraud-recovery office.

*"People want to get back out and do things they haven't done for the past two years. They will complain about prices but they are still going out to spend."*

**Garrett Melson**, a portfolio strategist with Natixis Investment Managers, on the "revenge spending" phenomenon. Though inflation "is in the driver's seat," consumers are still spending "thanks to excess savings and pent-up demand," he says. Source: CNN Business







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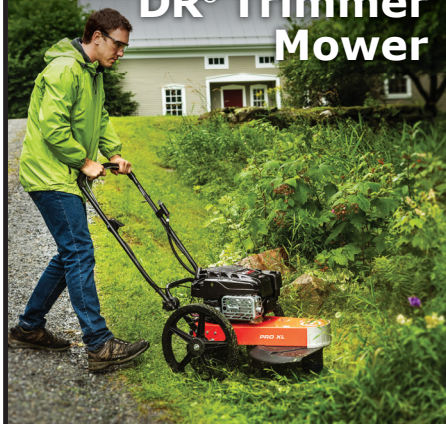
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**How to submit a reunion**

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org) or submit information online at [legion.org/reunions](http://legion.org/reunions).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are free.

Notices will remain online until the final day of the reunion. Upon submission, allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing twice a year.**

**Other notices**

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206** or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are free.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.**

Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your American Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

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**Bn**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/29-10/3, Tammy Beene, (615) 293-5422, [tammy@knowbettertravel.com](mailto:tammy@knowbettertravel.com); **629th & 178th Ordnance (Field Supply) (Qui Nhon, Vietnam)**, Council Bluffs, IA, 9/12-16, Gary Matthews, (712) 485-2422, [gmatt41347@aol.com](mailto:gmatt41347@aol.com); **1313th Eng, Camp Atterbury, IN**, 7/23, Don Williams, (812) 521-0388, [toymechanic50@gmail.com](mailto:toymechanic50@gmail.com); **A Co 7th Cbt Eng 1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)**, Springfield, MO, 9/23-26, Tom Grafton, (314) 416-0535, [graftonthomas5@gmail.com](mailto:graftonthomas5@gmail.com); **D Co 1/6 Inf 198th LIB Americal Div (Vietnam)**, Chattanooga, TN, 9/12-16, Gary Salpini, (703) 425-0522, [gary.salpini@gmail.com](mailto:gary.salpini@gmail.com); **D/2/16, 1st Inf Div (1967-1970)**, Lindenwood, NJ, 7/21-24, Don Dignan, (734) 525-0157, [dondignan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dondignan@sbcglobal.net); **Old Guard Assn**, Arlington, VA, 9/14-18, Mike Winter, (619) 571-7204, [theoldguardassociation@gmail.com](mailto:theoldguardassociation@gmail.com)

**JOINT**

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**MARINES**

**Kilo 3/7 Vietnam**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/29-10/3, Bill Gerke, (631) 433-8575, [msggerke@aol.com](mailto:msggerke@aol.com)

**NAVY**

**Abnaki**, Urbandale, IA, 9/19-22, Nancy Ferber, (641) 745-7077, [masonswyergm@yahoo.com](mailto:masonswyergm@yahoo.com); **Anchorage LSD 36**, San Diego, 10/1-4, Michael McGrath, (619) 750-6390, [michael@lsd36.com](mailto:michael@lsd36.com); **Antietam CV/CVA/CVS 36**, Mobile, AL, 9/19-23, Sandy Haskin, (716) 326-2510, [dchaskin@cecomet.net](mailto:dchaskin@cecomet.net); **Badger DE/FF 1071**, Tampa, FL, 10/5-9, Lois Person-Harden, (734) 323-5698, [loiso@umich.edu](mailto:loiso@umich.edu); **Buchanan DDG 14**, San Diego, 6/26-29, Robin Browning, (408) 348-5761, [stg1navy@aol.com](mailto:stg1navy@aol.com); **Canopus AS 34**, Oklahoma City, 10/3-7, Carl Rennerfeldt, (402) 533-3271, [cmrenner@abbnebraska.com](mailto:cmrenner@abbnebraska.com); **Constellation CVA/CV 64**, Buffalo, NY, 9/12-17, Richard Swain, (432) 694-0227, [membership@ussconstellation.com](mailto:membership@ussconstellation.com)

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**Eldorado AGC 11**, Don Wilson, (641) 840-5304  
**Ethan Allen SSBN 608 (New London, CT, Gold Crew, 1966-1967)**, Elmer "Bud" Gerdes, (314) 249-8721, eegerdes@gmail.com  
**Glacier WAGB 4**, Bert Dejong, dejongpago@hotmail.com  
**Guam (1960-1964)**, Bill McMaster, (724) 763-6993  
**LCS(L) 1-130 (Pacific, 1940-1950)**, Don Wilson, (641) 840-5304  
**Leary DD 879 (1945-1974)**, Al Redden, (308) 530-1284, alshr@alophone.com  
**Navy Salvage School (Bayonne, NJ, 1954)**, Wardell Stephens, (520) 472-0919  
**NSGA Midway Island (1967-1968)**, Vince Colotti, hcolotti@gmail.com  
**Ranger CV 61 (1964-1965)**, Bill McMaster, (724) 763-6993

## TAPS

**Robert C. Ayers, Dept. of Indiana.** Dept. Cmdr. 1969-1970, Nat'l American Legion Insurance and Trust Cmte. Memb. 1976-1986, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2014, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1992-2013, Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Consultant 1986-1992 and Nat'l Spirit of '76 Cmte. Memb. 1970-1976.

**Robert D. Winston, Dept. of Rhode Island.** Dept. Cmdr. 2008-2009, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2016-2017, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2005-2013, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2015 and 2018-2022, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2013-2015, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2015-2017, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2015-2016 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2017-2018.

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**DID YOU HEAR** about the waffle iron with anger issues? He just flipped.

**TWO WHALES** are in a bar. One turns to the other and says, "OOOHHHAAA OOH HAAOO!" The other whale says, "Go home, Steve! You're drunk!"

**A TEACHER** gave her grade-school students a pop quiz. She asked one boy, "Tell me what you know about George Washington. Was he a soldier or a sailor?"

"He was a soldier," the boy replied.

"And why do you think that?"

"Because I saw a picture of him crossing the Delaware," he said confidently, "and anybody who would stand up in a rowboat sure isn't any sailor."

**I TRIED** to organize a professional hide-and-seek tournament, but it was a complete failure. Good players are hard to find.

**CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF**, it wasn't an apple on a tree that got us banished from paradise. It was the pair on the ground.

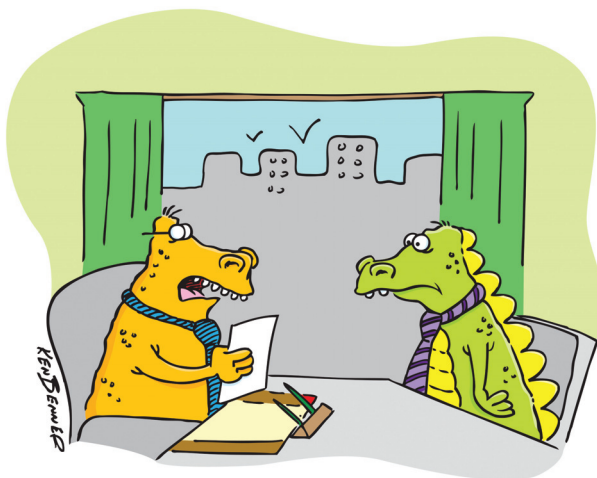
**A HUSBAND** asked his wife, "Why do you cry and sniffle at a movie over the imaginary woes of people you've never met?"

"For the same reason," she replied, "that you yell and scream when a man you've never met slides into second base."

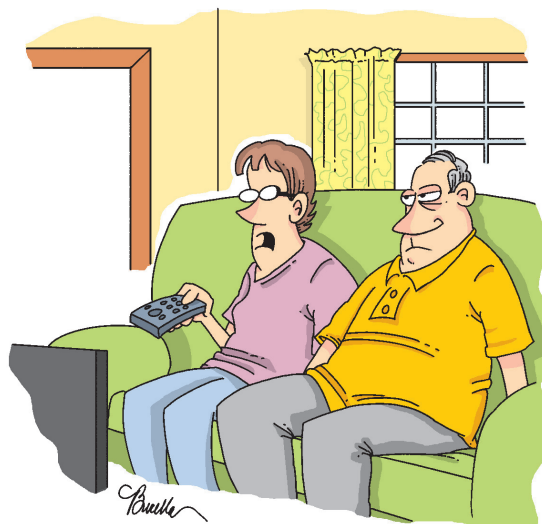
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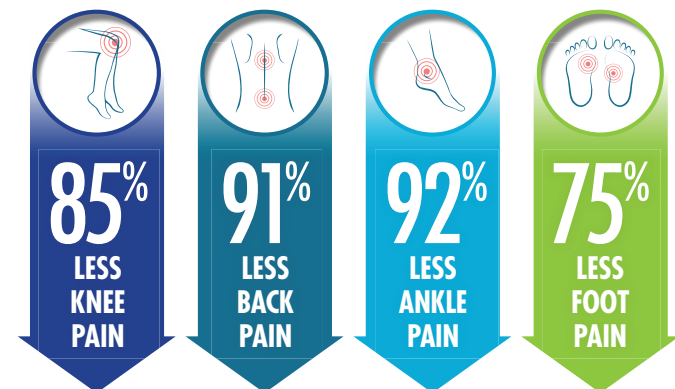
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